

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DISTRICT 7**

100 MAIN STREET, SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3606
PHONE (213) 897-0362
FAX (213) 897-0360
TTY (213) 897-4937



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January 18, 2006

Subject: Route 405 High Occupancy Vehicle Lane Study

Dear Interested Party:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has completed its review of the numerous comments addressing the High Occupancy Lane (HOV) study on the Route 405 Freeway. The comments ranged between supporters of improvements to those that were opposed to any project. Some individuals favored, or opposed one alternative or more alternatives. We also received suggestions and thoughts about what issues Caltrans should evaluate during the decision making process. The enclosed table summarizes the comments we have received, during both our 2002 and 2005 Public Scoping Programs.

Please be assured that these diverse comments will be used to guide our Department in the preparation of the Route 405 Environmental Document. Our engineering and environmental team is in the process of reviewing these comments to ensure that they are addressed in the Draft Environmental Document, which we plan to circulate for public review later this year. At that time you will have an opportunity to review and critique our work. Further notices of study milestones will be sent to you during the year. In the meantime please visit our web site at www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/move405 to monitor the progress of this effort along with other information that may be of interest.

Thank you for your involvement. We, at Caltrans, hope that we can keep you well informed of the status of this study and we can also be of assistance to you regarding this or any other transportation concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Kosinski".

Ronald Kosinski
Deputy District Director
Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation



LA 405 HOV Sepulveda Pass Project Public Outreach Comments 2002 and 2005

Issues/Concerns	2002	2005
Alternative 1 - No Build	Supported by 3 residents and The City of Culver City	Supported by 6 resident and Sherman Oaks Home Owners Association
Alternative 2 - NB HOV Lane	Supported by 1 residents, Westwood Hills Property Owners Assoc., and UCLA	Supported by 3 resident. Supported by WHPOA if ROW impacts could be avoided.
Alternative 3- NB HOV and Standardized SB Lanes	Supported by 2 residents.	Opposed by Brentwood Glen Association
Alternative 4 - Elevated Viaduct with 2 HOV lanes in NB and SB Direction	Supported by 5 residents. Opposed by Assemblymember Koretz, 8 residents, So. Cal Transit Advocates, Westwood Hills Property Owners Assoc & Bel-Air Assoc.	Opposed by 4 resident, Brentwood Glen Association, Homeowners of Encino and WHPOA. Supported by 3 resident. Residents pose concern for earthquake issues involved with an elevated structure.
Alternative 5 - Transit Enhancement	City of Santa Monica (Kevin McKeown) support rail options. One resident supports bus enhancements and one business is in support of transit enhancement.	Supported by 5 resident. Opposed by 3 resident, Brentwood Glen Association and WHPOA.
Soundwalls for Noise	Supported by Assemblymember Koretz, 14 residents, West LA Little League and Bel Aire Association	Supported by 7 residents, Royal Woods Community and WHPOA. Royal Woods neighborhood in Sherman Oaks has assembled 210 signatures from homeowners indicating their support for soundwalls.
Montana Off-ramp Closure	Assembly member Koretz, 4 residents, and Westwood Hills Property Owners Association & Bel-Aire Association Oppose. LADOT to review.	Supported by 2 resident. Opposed by 1 resident. WHPO opposes closure, however also opposes realignment if it requires impacts to adjacent homes. Brentwood Glen Association opposes due to access for their neighborhood and added traffic to Wilshire and Sunset. Implications with UCLA traffic allowed on Sunset Blvd. if Montana off-ramp is closed.
Moraga Closure with NB Sunset onramp	Supported by Bel Ailr Association. LADOT to review	
Acquisitions/Right of Way	Opposed by 1 resident. UCLA boundaries of interest to be considered.	Opposed by 13 resident. Opposed by Westwood Hills Property Owners Association and Brentwood Glen Association. Residents specifically opposed widening which would require new right of way in areas between Wilshire and Sunset.
Economic Impact Analysis		Supported by 4 residents.
Improved Air Quality		Supported by 4 resident. WHPOA and Brentwood Glen Association (specifically with elevated decking) concerned about health risks associated with air quality.
Circulation/Traffic	Local street and cut through traffic was an expressed concern of residents.	Improvements supported by Los Angeles Country Club. Local street congestion a large concern for residents. Expressed concern by one resident regarding traffic and pedestrian movement at propose ramp reconfigured locations, specifically at Ohio Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd. in order to access Westwood Park. One resident opposes the realignment of Sepulveda Blvd. Two residents support doing anything which would alleviate traffic. Two residents support providing incentives for alternative modes of transportation or carpooling. Two residents support the addition of a mixed flow lane. One resident questions the use of HOV lanes. Brentwood Glen HOA indicated the need for regional traffic planning.
Other Issues	One buisness owner suggested that improved drainage runoff from freeway is needed. Hazardous car fire concerns were expressed by one resident.	Safety concerns were identified as being issue to be evaluated. Additional scoping meetings were requested by WHPOA. WHPOA also asks that growth inducement with respect to traffic is discussed in the EIR/EIS as well as a cost-benefit analysis. Sherman Oaks HOA also indicates that w shouldn't be providing more capacity for cars. Homeowners of Encino brings up the concept of latent demand. WHPOA indicated that pipelines carrying methane gas are within the construction area, which brings about health and safety concerns.